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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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S-E-C-R-E-T

COUNTRY Poland

REPORT

SUBJECT [] Essential Goods,
Prices and Wages; Civilian Defense

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3. [redacted] situation 25X1
concerning essential goods, prices and wages in Poland [redacted] 25X1
- a. [redacted] the food supply in Szczecin 25X1
[redacted] was very poor. A 25X1
special supply of food was released for 1 May, the holiday; after this supply was exhausted, the situation became even worse than it had been previously. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] food was 25X1
in short supply because there had been a poor yield from agriculture and the livestock was in a poor state of health [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] a considerable percentage of the livestock was very ill, e.g., TB. 25X1
- b. [redacted] good modern drugs were 25X1
difficult to obtain.
- c. There had been a considerable improvement in the supply of clothing and shoes. The volume of these items had increased, slightly better grades had appeared, and there seemed to be a greater variety to choose from.
- d. Quite a few washing machines and refrigerators had appeared on the market, but they were too expensive for the average consumer.
- e. More and more Gallux shops were appearing in Poland. There were two in Szczecin. The Gallux shops were stores that sold "luxury" goods, i.e., better than the average Polish product. Mostly, they sold imported clothing and fancy goods (some Polish produced). Prices were high in these shops.
- f. Radios were available in the stores, and there was no longer the same demand for them as had existed previously.
- g. Food and clothing prices had not changed.
- h. Wages had remained the same. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] 25X1
4. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] the general policy in Poland regarding 25X1
investments was one of keeping them to a minimum and more fully exploiting existing assets. Allegedly, the funds conserved in abstaining from additional investments are to be used to improve the national standard of living. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] 25X1

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5. [redacted] there was no evidence of censorship of mail [redacted] received from East Germany but [redacted] people said that the post office had means of censoring incoming foreign mail and used them. Mail from Poland going to East Germany was handled like all other mail to foreign countries, i.e., it had to be presented at the post office unsealed. The only type of photograph permitted to be sent through the mail were photographs or snapshots of people; no panoramic shots or shots of the countryside, buildings, etc. were permitted to be sent. 25X1
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6. a. [redacted] air raid shelters [redacted] already existing were being cleaned and kept in good condition. For the last two years, the Regional Antiaircraft Defense Organization (Terenowa Obrona Przeciw Lotnicza - TOPL) had been making recommendations that each industrial installation build an observation point on the highest point in its installation and equip it with a telephone and siren. These recommendations had been generally ignored because the installations lacked the funds necessary for complying with it. 25X1
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- b. [redacted] a siren was installed [redacted] on the roof of the building [redacted] 25X1
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- c. TOPL also reviewed plans for construction projects to see that they met defense specifications, i.e., were adequately fireproofed, well constructed from the point of view of withstanding bombings, etc. [redacted] TOPL had caused some construction plans to be revised according to its recommendations. 25X1
- d. [redacted] there were no general practice alerts in Poland. Employees in factories were being trained in fire fighting, use of gas masks (there were only a few gas masks available to the factories, but the employees were shown how to use them) and first aid procedures (mostly women were trained in this). Various teams were organized for these civil defense activities. Political questions were included in the final exams; diplomas were given to individuals for each course completed. [redacted] there had been no increase in civil defense activities. 25X1
- e. Everybody was obligated by his place of employment to be inoculated against typhus at the installation's sick-room or a local dispensary. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] 25X1

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10. Sometime after Bierut's death it was announced that the standard of living in Poland would be raised. The Party also officially announced that Poland would have to expand its foreign contacts on its own and not look to the USSR for leads and advice as had been done in the past. However, the purpose of this was officially described as an effort to "strengthen the position of the Soviet Bloc."

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there were new railroad passenger coaches in use in Poland which could be converted to carry six wounded persons to a compartment. The baggage racks on either side of the compartment were wide enough to sleep one person each; the backs of the seats could be raised and were already provided with hooks or hardware for suspending them from the baggage rack, thus accomodating two more wounded; and the seats themselves made the last two bunks or beds. The official name for these coaches was "tourist wagons" (wagony turystyczne), but it was generally believed that they were intended for carrying wounded in case of war. this was surmise and they could simply have been third class sleeping accomodations.

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15. propaganda hostile to the U.S. still existed in Poland but there had been no recent increase in this propaganda

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